



## guanidinoacetate methyltransferase deficiency

Guanidinoacetate methyltransferase deficiency is an inherited disorder that primarily affects the brain and muscles. Without early treatment, people with this disorder have neurological problems that are usually severe. These problems include intellectual disability, speech development limited to a few words, and recurrent seizures (epilepsy). Affected individuals may also exhibit autistic behaviors that affect communication and social interaction or self-injurious behaviors such as head-banging. Other features of this disorder can include involuntary movements (extrapyramidal dysfunction) such as tremors or facial tics.

People with guanidinoacetate methyltransferase deficiency may have weak muscle tone and delayed development of motor skills such as sitting or walking. In severe cases they may lose previously acquired skills such as the ability to support their head or to sit unsupported.

### Frequency

Guanidinoacetate methyltransferase deficiency is a very rare disorder. About 80 affected individuals have been described in the medical literature. Of these, approximately one-third are of Portuguese origin.

### Genetic Changes

Mutations in the *GAMT* gene cause guanidinoacetate methyltransferase deficiency. The *GAMT* gene provides instructions for making the enzyme guanidinoacetate methyltransferase. This enzyme participates in the two-step production (synthesis) of the compound creatine from the protein building blocks (amino acids) glycine, arginine, and methionine. Specifically, guanidinoacetate methyltransferase controls the second step of this process. In this step, creatine is produced from another compound called guanidinoacetate. Creatine is needed for the body to store and use energy properly.

*GAMT* gene mutations impair the ability of the guanidinoacetate methyltransferase enzyme to participate in creatine synthesis, resulting in a shortage of creatine. The effects of guanidinoacetate methyltransferase deficiency are most severe in organs and tissues that require large amounts of energy, especially the brain.

### Inheritance Pattern

This condition is inherited in an autosomal recessive pattern, which means both copies of the gene in each cell have mutations. The parents of an individual with an autosomal recessive condition each carry one copy of the mutated gene, but they typically do not show signs and symptoms of the condition.

## **Other Names for This Condition**

- creatine deficiency syndrome due to GAMT deficiency
- deficiency of guanidinoacetate methyltransferase
- GAMT deficiency

## **Diagnosis & Management**

### Genetic Testing

- Genetic Testing Registry: Deficiency of guanidinoacetate methyltransferase  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/gtr/conditions/C0574080/>

### Other Diagnosis and Management Resources

- GeneReview: Creatine Deficiency Syndromes  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK3794>

### General Information from MedlinePlus

- Diagnostic Tests  
<https://medlineplus.gov/diagnostictests.html>
- Drug Therapy  
<https://medlineplus.gov/drugtherapy.html>
- Genetic Counseling  
<https://medlineplus.gov/geneticcounseling.html>
- Palliative Care  
<https://medlineplus.gov/palliativecare.html>
- Surgery and Rehabilitation  
<https://medlineplus.gov/surgeryandrehabilitation.html>

## **Additional Information & Resources**

### MedlinePlus

- Health Topic: Amino Acid Metabolism Disorders  
<https://medlineplus.gov/aminoacidmetabolismdisorders.html>
- Health Topic: Developmental Disabilities  
<https://medlineplus.gov/developmentaldisabilities.html>
- Health Topic: Epilepsy  
<https://medlineplus.gov/epilepsy.html>
- Health Topic: Genetic Brain Disorders  
<https://medlineplus.gov/geneticbraindisorders.html>

### Genetic and Rare Diseases Information Center

- Guanidinoacetate methyltransferase deficiency  
<https://rarediseases.info.nih.gov/diseases/2578/guanidinoacetate-methyltransferase-deficiency>

### Educational Resources

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Intellectual Disability  
[https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/pdf/parents\\_pdfs/IntellectualDisability.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/pdf/parents_pdfs/IntellectualDisability.pdf)
- Disease InfoSearch: Guanidinoacetate Methyltransferase Deficiency  
<http://www.diseaseinfosearch.org/Guanidinoacetate+Methyltransferase+Deficiency/3202>
- Orphanet: Guanidinoacetate methyltransferase deficiency  
[http://www.orpha.net/consor/cgi-bin/OC\\_Exp.php?Lng=EN&Expert=382](http://www.orpha.net/consor/cgi-bin/OC_Exp.php?Lng=EN&Expert=382)

### Patient Support and Advocacy Resources

- Association for Creatine Deficiencies  
<https://creatineinfo.org/>
- Children Living With Inherited Metabolic Diseases  
<http://www.climb.org.uk/>
- The Arc: for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities  
<http://www.thearc.org/>
- University of Kansas Medical Center  
<http://www.kumc.edu/gec/support/metaboli.html>

### GeneReviews

- Creatine Deficiency Syndromes  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK3794>

### ClinicalTrials.gov

- ClinicalTrials.gov  
<https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/results?cond=%22guanidinoacetate+methyltransferase+deficiency%22>

### Scientific Articles on PubMed

- PubMed  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=%28%28guanidinoacetate+methyltransferase+deficiency%5BTIAB%5D%29+OR+%28gamt+deficiency%5BTIAB%5D%29%29+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+human%5Bmh%5D+AND+%22last+1800+days%22%5Bdp%5D>

## OMIM

- CEREBRAL CREATINE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME 2  
<http://omim.org/entry/612736>

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Reprinted from Genetics Home Reference:

<https://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/condition/guanidinoacetate-methyltransferase-deficiency>

Reviewed: June 2015

Published: March 21, 2017

Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications  
U.S. National Library of Medicine  
National Institutes of Health  
Department of Health & Human Services